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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1837 - 38
B.P. No.

Press
~~Misc.~~

Dated 2.9.1886

195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper :—

G.O., dated 28th July 1886, Mis. No. 1568, Public.

Read—the following letter from A. P. MACDONNELL, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Judicial), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 24th June 1886, No. 13-844 :—

With reference to Act No. VI of 1886 (The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886), which was published in the *Gazette of India* of the 13th March last, and to the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill, which appeared in the same Gazette, I am directed to request that you will be good enough to state, for the information of the Government of India, what arrangements it is proposed to make under sections 6 and 12 of the Act, which provide for the establishment of a general registry office, the appointment to the charge of such office of an officer to be called the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and the appointment of Registrars of Births and Deaths for such local areas within the territories under the jurisdiction of each local Government as the local Government concerned may define, and, if it sees fit, for any class of persons within any part of those territories.

2. With reference to section 26 of the Act and paragraph 9 of the report of the Select Committee, I am further to request that the Government of India may be favored with suggestions in regard to the rules to be framed under that section authorizing registrars, on conditions and in circumstances to be specified in the rules, to register births and deaths occurring outside the local areas or classes for which they are appointed. His Excellency in Council would also be glad to receive suggestions in regard to the rules to be framed under section 28 for the correction of entries in the registers of births and deaths, and in regard to the rules, registers and forms to be framed or prescribed under section 36, which relates to various miscellaneous matters, and generally to the making of such rules as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

3. I am at the same time to invite special attention to paragraph 15 of the Select Committee's report, in which it is remarked that the provisions of section 16, sub-section (2), of the Act, regarding the attendance of registrars at their offices for the purpose of registering births and deaths, do not apply to all registrars, but only to those registrars to whom the local Government may direct the sub-section in question to be applied.

4. I am to request the favor of an early reply, as the Act cannot be brought into force until the rules, &c., the preparation of which is contemplated thereunder, have been framed and published.

Order—dated 28th July 1886, Mis. No. 1568, Public.

The Board of Revenue, the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, and the Sanitary Commissioner, will be requested to offer their opinions on the subject.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

READ—also the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th August 1886, No. 1776.

Read—G.O., dated 23th July 1886, Mis. No. 1568, Public.

Resolution—dated 7th August 1886, No. 1776.

The Board consider that the arrangements made under sections 6 and 12 of the Act should be to appoint the Inspector-General of Registration and the Registrars and Sub-Registrars, Registrars-General and Registrars under the Act. The work will be similar in character to that which these officers now perform. The only alternative would be to appoint officers of the Medical, Magisterial or Revenue Service, but these officers may have to do with the entries when they become evidence, and they should consequently have as little as possible to do with them before that time. The Board would not wish to see any exception made in the case of missionaries. The registration is to be voluntary, and the missionary can always advise parties to go to the registrar. It is desirable that the registration of one locality should be done in one place. Some provision must be made regarding the registration of births and deaths in Native States such as Travancore, but the Board presume that the question will be considered by Government in the Political Department.

2. The provisions of section 26 should only be applied to births and deaths occurring in the course of a journey outside the proper registration district.

3. Care will be necessary with regard to corrections made under section 28. There is, in the Board's opinion, great difference in the degree of danger attaching to errors detected and corrections made within a short time—say, three months—and those detected long subsequently when corrections may be desired for the purpose of manufacturing evidence. The Board consider that no corrections should be allowed after three months without the prior consent of the Divisional Magistrate.

4. Under section 36, rules have to be laid down with regard to the following subjects:—

- (a) *Fees*.—The Act seems to require no fees for registration. The Board consider that the fees for copies and searches might be fixed at the rates laid down in Part iii, rule iv, of the revised Ecclesiastical rules, published in Government of India Notification, dated 20th June 1885.
- (b) (d), (e), (f) *Forms, &c.*—No suggestions appear necessary as regards these points.
- (c) *Time within which notice should be given*.—The Board think that registration may be made at once if notice is given within two months; if notice is given after two months but within one year, it should not be effected without the prior consent of the District Registrars. After that, it should not be effected without the prior consent of the Registrar-General.
- (g) The only points which seem to the Board to require notice are the questions how the identity of the persons giving the notice and signing the registers is to be established, and whether the registrars receiving the notice may go to the house where the event has occurred and register it there. The Board think the identity may be established by a village munsif's certificate, and that the registrars should be allowed to go to the houses, if the parties desire, on payment of a fee of Rs. 5 and travelling expenses.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department.

From G. BIDIE, Esq., M.B., C.I.E., Acting Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 12th August 1886, No. O-373.

With reference to G.O., Mis. No. 1568, dated 28th July 1886, I have the honor to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the following remarks on certain points connected with Act VI of 1886, for the registration of births, deaths and marriages.

2. The classes to which it is to apply in the first instance are apparently Europeans, East Indians, Native Christians, Jews, Armenians, and Parsis, and as these have all been more or less accustomed to the registration of such events as those included in the Act, it is to be regretted that the duty of registration has in their case not been made obligatory.

3. Notwithstanding the long period that British rule has existed in India, our knowledge of the vital statistics of the native population, Eurasians and foreign residents, is very imperfect, so that any reliable acquisition as to the progress of population, operation of moral and physical causes on health, and as to the prevalence of disease amongst these classes, would be of inestimable value. For sanitary, economic, and purely statistical purposes, such information is much required, and although the classes included form but a small portion of the general population, still it seems desirable to make a beginning in the direction of complete and accurate registration, by making it compulsory.

4. It has further to be noted that, as the Act now exists, it confers on the classes whose births, deaths and marriages are registrable, a superior legal status which may be regarded by other members of the community as not altogether impartial. I would therefore on this account, and also for other reasons, suggest that, as section 26 gives the Governor-General in Council the power to extend the scope of the Act, the privilege of voluntary registration should be given to Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and all other sections of the native community,—at any rate, in municipal towns. Already the educated classes are beginning to recognize the importance from a legal point of view of the registration of births and deaths as at present carried out in municipalities, and it seems very desirable that every opportunity should be taken to still further familiarise the people generally with, and train them up to, the duty of registering such events as births and deaths.

5. With regard to the agency to be employed, I am of opinion that, for the record of births and deaths, special registrars will have to be provided in convenient centres. In the case of marriage, registration may be left as at present to the authorities who perform the ceremony in churches, synagogues, &c. So long as registration is voluntary and confined to comparatively small sections of the population, the duties of Registrar-General will not demand any special qualifications and may be performed by any one who has a due respect for accuracy, good knowledge of ordinary office-work, and the capacity to organize and control the subordinate staff. But in case of the Act being so extended as to compass the vital statistics of the entire population, a medical officer with special qualifications will be required.

6. In the latter part of paragraph 2 of their letter under notice, the Government of India invite suggestions with reference to sections 28 and 36 of the Act, and it seems to me that they may safely adopt, with such modifications as may be necessary, the forms and registers in use, and also the rules in force, in England for carrying out the purposes of the Consolidated Registration Act.

From Deputy Surgeon-General W. FARQUHAR, M.D., Acting Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 20th August 1886, No. O-92.

Adverting to G.O., Mis. No. 1568, of 28th July 1886, Public, I have the honor to forward observations in reply to letter, No. 13—844, dated 24th June 1886, of the Government of India, regarding the registration of births, deaths and marriages under Act VI of 1886.

2. The question appears to be how to effect registration of these events (among the classes to which the Indian Succession Act applies) in a manner that shall answer the purpose of a legal record.

3. In municipalities, these classes—as well as every other class of natives—come under the compulsory rule of registering births and deaths within specified periods. But while this is the case, the registrar has, unless where the law is strictly enforced, to search for information of events, in the great majority of cases, instead of its being brought to him.

4. In the districts, there is no obligation on any one to give information, although it is the duty of the kurnam to register events as he best can.

5. The proposal, as regards the classes now alluded to, is to confer on them something of the nature of a benefit or privilege, while not doing away with the compulsion that there is in municipalities for the present kind of registration. In course of time, natives of all creeds and classes also would probably desire to be admitted to the privilege, and this desire, if granted, as seems advisable, would act as an incentive to more universal registration than at present obtains under the rule of compulsion.

6. For district registration, the present agency, or a modification of it, would suffice. The tahsildar should be responsible for collecting, checking and forwarding the records.

7. The stress of registration of the classes now enquired about would probably fall on municipalities, and it would be for each to settle the competency, for this higher kind of work, of the present registrars, or whether some other municipal servant should do it.

8. The collection of information as to marriages would have to be entrusted to the present agents, by whom it could be forwarded to the central office.

9. As marriages form a part of vital statistics from which, as a whole, important deductions have to be made for sanitary and other purposes, it would only be completing information hitherto wanting (regarding important sections of the community) if this were sent to the office of the Sanitary Commissioner, who is already the Registrar-General of vital statistics.

10. In the matter of forms for the proposed registration, they should be uniform, and include all particulars required by law, and also be durable and of a kind not easily imitated.

11. Note would have to be taken of such matters as how to identify Native Christians who have no family names.

12. For births and deaths, the forms in use with the Madras municipality would be a good guide.

13. Details as to the mode of submission of "true copies" of registered events to the central office, and of rules generally, could, I venture to say, be most satisfactorily settled by a conference of officers having acquaintance with the subject. The simplest method would seem to be to have all originals in cheque and counterfoil form, and to have the separate sheets passed on periodically to the central office, where they could be arranged and bound for preservation.

ORDER—dated 2nd September 1886, No. 1837, Public.

The arrangements which this Government propose to make under sections 6 and 12 of Act VI of 1886 are as follows:—That the Inspector-General of Registration should be appointed Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; that the various Marriage Registrars who perform the functions prescribed by the several Marriage Acts should be appointed Registrars of Births and Deaths for the classes which come under their cognizance *quod* such Marriage Acts; and that the Registrars under the Registration Act should be appointed Registrars of Births and Deaths, each for his own district, to

meet the cases of persons not falling within the classes above referred to, or who may prefer not to resort to the Marriage Registrar. Eventually it may be found desirable also to appoint the Sub-Registrars under the Registration Act to be Registrars of Births and Deaths, each for his own local area, but this does not appear necessary at present.

2. It must not be forgotten that registration under Act VI of 1886 will be entirely voluntary, and that it in no way affects the compulsory registration of domestic occurrences under Municipal or other Acts, which must proceed irrespective of the registration now under consideration. It seems desirable, therefore, that the latter should be performed by a distinct agency. The provisions of section 16, sub-section (2), should apply only to registrars for local areas.

3. If the above proposals be carried out, there would probably be few places in the Presidency which would not fall within the jurisdiction of a registrar under the Act. It should be the duty, however, of any registrar for a local area to register a birth or death which had not occurred within his area, if sufficient reason is shown, *e.g.*, that the event happened on a journey. Such reason should be recorded then and there, and a special report submitted to the Registrar-General.

4. With regard to section 28, the Government consider that no alteration should be allowed except under an order from the Judge of the District Court, as in section 19.

5. Turning to section 36, the Government approve the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that fees for copies and searches should be fixed at the rates laid down in Part iii, rule iv, of the revised Ecclesiastical rules published in Government of India Notification, dated 20th June 1885. They think it desirable, however, to prescribe a fee for registration also. An establishment will be required by the Registrar-General for working the Act, and registrars for local areas and their clerks may also properly receive some remuneration for the extra work they may be called upon to perform. With regard to heads (b), (c) and (d) of the section, the suggestion of the Acting Surgeon-General, that the forms in use in England under the Consolidated Registration Act should be adopted, will be recommended for consideration. Heads (e) and (f) seem to apply only to Chapter V of the Act. In the opinion of this Government, the particulars in the lists to be prepared under that chapter should follow, as nearly as may be and as the available materials will allow, the particulars which appear in the forms to be prescribed for future general use. The Registrar-General would seem to be the proper custodian of the registers and records referred to in (e). If, however, head (f) refers to all registers and records under the Act, it would seem desirable to provide in the rules that, in the case of a registrar for a class, the records should be handed to the magistrate of the district when the registrar resigns or leaves the locality, his successor (if any) resuming charge from the magistrate, and a report being in any case made to the Registrar-General, who should take charge of the records if no successor be appointed. With reference to the suggestion of the Board of Revenue under (g), the Government think it unnecessary to prescribe any rules of the kind suggested in the case of registrars for a class, and that in the case of registrars for local areas, the ordinary rules as to identity and execution which prevail in the Registration Department should be adopted.

6. Ordered that the Government of India be addressed.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
„ Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
„ Inspector-General of Registration.
„ Judicial Department.
„ Ecclesiastical Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Raiff.

Govt. of (1886) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 2nd September 1886, No. 1837.

SEPTEMBER.

Registration of Births, Deaths
and Marriages.

Passing orders on the remarks made by certain
officers on certain points connected with the —
under Act VI of 1886.

2ND SEPTEMBER 1886, No. 1838, PUBLIC.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—from

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
FORT ST. GEORGE.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT (MEDICAL).

SIR,

With reference to your letter, No. 13-84, dated 21st June, I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of the Proceedings of this Government, No. 1837, of this date, containing the proposals and suggestions of this Government with reference to Act VI of 1886 (The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886).

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OOTACAMUND,
2nd September 1886.

Chief Secretary.

Ed. A. Raitt.

Reg. No.

HOME 1886 DEPT.

From the Government of
Fort St. George.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

Letter, 2nd Sept. 1886, No. 1838.

SEPTEMBER.

Registration of Births, Deaths
and Marriages.

Forwarding copy of certain Proceedings, con-
taining the proposals and suggestions of this
Government with reference to Act VI of 1886
regarding the —.

BOARD OF REVENUE, 7TH AUGUST 1886, No. 1776.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following G.O., dated 28th July 1886, Mis. No. 1568, Public :—

Read—the following letter from A. P. MACDONNELL, Esq., C.S., Officiating Secre-
tary to the Government of India, Home Department (Judicial), to the Chief
Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 24th June 1886,
No. 13-844 :—

With reference to Act No. VI of 1881 (The Births, Deaths, and Marriages
Registration Act, 1886) which was published in the *Gazette of India* of the 13th March
last, and to the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill which
appeared in the same Gazette, I am directed to request that you will be good enough
to state, for the information of the Government of India, what arrangements it is pro-
posed to make under sections 6 and 12 of the Act, which provide for the establishment
of a general registry office, the appointment to the charge of such office of an officer to
be called the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and the appointment
of Registrars of Births and Deaths for such local areas within the territories under the
jurisdiction of each Local Government as the Local Government concerned may define,
and, if it sees fit, for any class of persons within any part of those territories.

2. With reference to section 26 of the Act and paragraph 9 of the report of the
Select Committee, I am further to request that the Government of India may be
favored with suggestions in regard to the rules to be framed under that section
authorizing Registrars, on conditions and in circumstances to be specified in the rules,
to register births and deaths occurring outside the local areas or classes for which they
are appointed. His Excellency in Council would also be glad to receive suggestions
in regard to the rules to be framed under section 28 for the correction of entries in
the registers of births and deaths, and in regard to the rules, registers, and forms to be
framed or prescribed under section 36, which relates to various miscellaneous matters,
and generally to the making of such rules as may be necessary to carry out the
purposes of the Act.

3. I am at the same time to invite special attention to paragraph 15 of the Select
Committee's report, in which it is remarked that the provisions of section 16, sub-
section (2), of the Act regarding the attendance of Registrars at their offices for the
purpose of registering births and deaths do not apply to all Registrars, but only to
those Registrars to whom the Local Government may direct the sub-section in question
to be applied.

4. I am to request the favor of an early reply, as the Act cannot be brought into
force until the rules, &c., the preparation of which is contemplated thereunder, have
been framed and published.

Order—dated 28th July 1886, Mis. No. 1568, Public.

The Board of Revenue, the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras,
and the Sanitary Commissioner will be requested to offer their opinions on the subject.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Styl
RESOLUTION—dated 7th August 1886, No. 1776.

The Board consider that the arrangements made under sections 6 and 12 of the Act should be to appoint the Inspector-General of Registration and the Registrars and Sub-Registrars, Registrars-General and Registrars under the Act. The work will be similar in character to that which these officers now perform. The only alternative would be to appoint officers of the Medical, Magisterial or Revenue service, but these officers may have to do with the entries when they become evidence, and they should consequently have as little as possible to do with them before that time. The Board would not wish to see any exception made in the case of missionaries. The registration is to be voluntary and the missionary can always advise parties to go to the Registrar. It is desirable that the registration of one locality should be done in one place. Some provision must be made regarding the registration of births and deaths in Native States such as Travancore, but the Board presume that the question will be considered by Government in the Political department.

2. The provisions of section 26 should only be applied to births and deaths occurring in the course of a journey outside the proper registration district.

3. Care will be necessary with regard to corrections made under section 28. There is, in the Board's opinion, great difference in the degree of danger attaching to errors detected and corrections made within a short time, say three months, and those detected long subsequently when corrections may be desired for the purpose of manufacturing evidence. The Board consider that no corrections should be allowed after three months without the prior consent of the Divisional Magistrate.

4. Under section 36, rules have to be laid down with regard to the following subjects:—

(a) *Fees*.—The Act seems to require no fees for registration. The Board consider that the fees for copies and searches might be fixed at the rates laid down in Part iii, rule iv of the revised Ecclesiastical rules, published in Government of India Notification, dated 20th June 1885.

(b) (d), (e), (f) *Forms, &c.*—No suggestions appear necessary as regards these points.

(c) *Time within which notice should be given*.—The Board think that registration may be made at once if notice is given within two months; if notice is given after two months but within one year, it should not be effected without the prior consent of the District Registrars. After that it should not be effected without the prior consent of the Registrar-General.

(g) The only points which seem to the Board to require notice are the questions how the identity of the persons giving the notice and signing the registers is to be established, and whether the Registrars receiving the notice may go to the house where the event has occurred and register it there. The Board think the identity may be established by a village munsif's certificate, and that the Registrars should be allowed to go to the houses if the parties desire on payment of a fee of Rs. 5 and travelling expenses.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Styl
Acting Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.
1886.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Printed August th.

Proceedings, 7th August 1886, No. 1776.

Submitting to Government Board's remarks
on certain points in connection with the Births,
Deaths and Marriages Registration Act VI of
1886.

FROM

No. 13
844.
A. P. MACDONNELL, Esq., C.S.,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Madras.

Home Department,
Judicial.

Simla, the 20 June 1886.

SIR,

WITH reference to Act No. VI of 1886 (The Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act, 1886), which was published in the *Gazette of India* of the 13th March last, and to the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill which appeared in the same Gazette, I am directed to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Govr. in Council, you will be good enough to state, for the information of the Government of India, what arrangements it is proposed to make under sections 6 and 12 of the Act, which provide for the establishment of a general registry office, the appointment to the charge of such office of an officer to be called the Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and the appointment of Registrars of Births and Deaths for such local areas within the territories under the jurisdiction of each Local Government as the Local Government concerned may define, and, if it sees fit, for any class of persons within any part of those territories.

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3. I am at the same time to invite special attention to paragraph 15 of the Select Committee's Report, in which it is remarked that the provisions of section 16, sub-section (2), of the Act regarding the attendance of Registrars at their offices for the purpose of registering births and deaths do not apply to all Registrars, but only to those Registrars to whom the Local Government may direct the sub-section in question to be applied.

4. I am to request the favour of an early reply, as the Act cannot be brought into force until the rules, &c., the preparation of which is contemplated thereunder, have been framed and published.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. P. Macdonnell
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

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23-9-07

Public
CURRENT NO. 26104

1568 of 28 July 1885.

G.O. Madras

The Board of Revenue
the Engineer. Govt. with the
Govt. of Madras, and the
Sanitary Committee will be
requested to offer their
views on the subject.

23/7

Board of Revenue
Sanitary Committee

Subject

Making certain inquiries

and calling for suggestions with
reference to Act No. VI of 1886



27.2.6.86
Rf

75.C.222

FORT ST. GEORGE GAZETTE
SUPPLEMENT.

TUESDAY EVENING,
FEBRUARY 10, 1885.



Bill introduced into the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws
and Regulations, or published under Rule 22.

The following Bill was introduced into the Council
of the Governor-General of India for the
purpose of making Laws and Regulations on
the 16th January 1885, and was referred to a
Select Committee:

No. 1 of 1885.

THE BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
REGISTRATION BILL, 1885.

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A Bill to provide for the voluntary Registration of certain Births and Deaths, for the establishment of General Registry Offices for keeping Registers of certain Births, Deaths and Marriages, and for certain other purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the voluntary registration of births and deaths among certain classes of persons, for the more effectual registration of those births and deaths and of the marriages registered under Act III of 1872 or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, and for the establishment of general registry offices for keeping registers of those births, deaths and marriages; And whereas it is also expedient to provide for the collection and preservation of certain existing registers made otherwise than in the performance of a duty specially enjoined by the law of the country in which the register was kept, and to declare that copies of the entries in those registers shall be admissible in evidence;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1885; and
(2) It shall come into force on such day as the Governor-General in Council, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, directs.
2. This Act extends to the whole of British India, and so far only as regards subjects of Her Majesty, to the dominions of Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty.
3. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—
“prescribed” means prescribed by a rule made by the Governor-General in Council under this Act; and
“Registrar of Births and Deaths” means a Registrar of Births and Deaths appointed under this Act.
4. Nothing in this Act, or in any rule made under this Act, shall affect any law heretofore or hereafter passed providing for the registration of births and deaths within particular local areas.

CHAPTER II.

GENERAL REGISTRY OFFICES OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

Establishment of general registry offices and appointment of Registrars-General.

certified copies of registers of births and deaths registered under this Act, or marriages registered under Act III of 1872 (which provide a form of marriage in certain cases), or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, as may be sent to it under this Act, or under either of the two last-mentioned Acts as amended by this Act; and

- (b) may, from time to time, appoint to the charge of that office an officer, to be called the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, for the territories under its administration.

(2) Provided that the Governor of Bombay in Council may, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, establish two general registry offices and appoint two Registrars-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the territories under his administration; one of such general registry offices and of such Registrars-General being established and appointed for Sindh and the other for the other territories under the administration of the Governor of Bombay in Council.

6. Each Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall cause indexes of all the certified copies of registers sent to his office under this Act, Act III of 1872, or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, as amended by this Act, to be made and kept in his office in the prescribed form.

7. Subject to the payment of the prescribed fees, the indexes so made shall be at all reasonable times open to inspection by any person applying to inspect them, and copies of entries in the certified copies of the registers to which they relate shall be given to all persons applying for them.

8. A copy of an entry given under the last foregoing section shall be signed by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth, death or marriage to which the entry relates.

9. Each Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall exercise a general superintendence over the Registrars of Births and Deaths in the territories for which he is appointed.

CHAPTER III.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

A.—Application of this Chapter.

Persons whose births and deaths are registrable.

(a) In British India, the members of every race, sect or tribe to which the Indian Succession Act, 1865, applies, and in respect of which an order under Section 332 of that Act is not for the time being in force, and all persons professing the Christian religion;

(b) in the dominions of Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty, subjects of Her Majesty being members of a like race, sect or tribe or professing the Christian religion.

B.—Registration Establishment.

11. (1) The Local Government may, from time to time, appoint, either by name or by virtue of their office, so many persons as it thinks fit to be Registrars of Births and Deaths for such local areas within the territories under its administration as it may, from time to time, define.

(2) The Local Government may suspend, remove or dismiss any person appointed under this section, and appoint another person in his stead.

(3) A Registrar of Births and Deaths may resign by notifying in writing to the Local Government his intention to do so, and, on his resignation being accepted by the Local Government, he shall be deemed to have vacated his office.

12. The Governor-General in Council may, from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, appoint, either by name or by virtue of their office, so many persons as he thinks fit to be Registrars of Births and Deaths for such local areas within the territories of any Prince or State in India in alliance with Her Majesty as he may, from time to time, define.

13. (1) Every Registrar of Births and Deaths shall have an office in the local area for which he is appointed.

(2) Every Registrar of Births and Deaths to whom the Local Government may direct the subsection to apply shall attend at his office for the purpose of registering births and deaths on such days and at such hours as the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages may, from time to time, direct, and shall cause to be placed in some conspicuous place on or near the outer door of his office, his name, with the addition of Registrar of Births and Deaths for the local area for which he is appointed, and the days and hours of his attendance.

14. (1) When any Registrar of Births and Deaths to whom the Local Government may direct this section to apply, not being a Registrar of Births and Deaths for a local area in the town of Calcutta, Madras or Bombay, is absent; or when his office is temporarily vacant, any person whom the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appoints in his behalf, or, in default of such appointment, the Judge of the District Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the Registrar's office is situate, shall be the Registrar of Births and Deaths during such absence or until the Local Government fills the vacancy.

(2) When any such Registrar of Births and Deaths for a local area in the town of Calcutta, Madras or Bombay is absent; or when his office is temporarily vacant, any person whom the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appoints in his behalf shall be the Registrar of Births and Deaths during such absence or until the Local Government fills the vacancy.

(3) The Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall report all appointments made under this section to the Local Government.

15. The Local Government shall supply every Registrar of Births and Deaths with a sufficient number of register books of births and of register books of deaths, and shall make suitable provision for the preservation of the records to be provided for.

16. Every Registrar of Births and Deaths, on receipt of notice of a birth or death within the local area for which he is appointed, shall, if the notice is given in register, within the prescribed time and in the prescribed mode by a person authorized by this Act to give the notice, forthwith make an entry of the birth or death in the proper register book.

17. The following persons are hereby authorized to give notice of a birth, namely, the father or mother of the child, or, in default of the father or mother, the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the child is born, or any person present at the birth, or the person having charge of the child.

18. The following persons are hereby authorized to give notice of a death, namely:—

able provision for the preservation of the records connected with the registration of births and deaths.

C.—Mode of Registration.

16. Every Registrar of Births and Deaths, on receipt of notice of a birth or death within the local area for which he is appointed, shall, if the notice is given in register, within the prescribed time and in the prescribed mode by a person authorized by this Act to give the notice, forthwith make an entry of the birth or death in the proper register book.

17. The following persons are hereby authorized to give notice of a birth, namely, the father or mother of the child, or, in default of the father or mother, the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the child is born, or any person present at the birth, or the person having charge of the child.

18. The following persons are hereby authorized to give notice of a death, namely:—

(a) In the case of any person dying in a house after the date on which this Act comes into force, the nearest relatives of the deceased present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased, or, in default of such relatives, any other relative of the deceased dwelling or being in the local area of the Registrar of Births and Deaths within which the deceased was at the time of his death, or, in default of such relatives, any person present at the death, or the occupier of the house in which to his knowledge the death took place, or, in default of the persons hereinbefore in this section mentioned, any inmate of that house; and

(b) in the case of any person dying in a place which is not a house, or of a dead body being found elsewhere than in a house, after the date on which this Act comes into force, any relative of the deceased person having knowledge of any of the particulars required to be registered concerning the death, or, in default of such relative, any person present at the death, or finding, or taking charge of the body.

19. (1) When an entry of a birth or death has been made by the Registrar of Births and Deaths as required by Section 16, the person giving notice of the birth or death must sign the entry in the register in the presence of the Registrar.

(2) Until the entry has been so signed, the birth or death shall not be deemed to be registered under this Act.

20. The Registrar of Births and Deaths shall, on application made at the time of registering any birth or death by the person giving notice of the birth or death, and on payment by him of the prescribed fee, give to the applicant a certificate in the prescribed form, signed by the Registrar, of having registered the birth or death.

21. (1) Every Registrar of Births and Deaths in British India shall send to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the territories within which the local area for which he is appointed is situate, at the prescribed intervals, a true copy, certified by him under his hand in the prescribed form, of all the entries of births and deaths in the register book kept by him since the last of those intervals:

Provided that, in the case of Registrars of Births and Deaths who are clergymen of the Churches of England, Rome and Scotland, the Registrar may send the certified copies in the first instance to his ecclesiastical superior, who shall send them to the proper Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

In this sub-section, "Church of England" and "Church of Scotland" mean the Church of England and the Church of Scotland as by law established respectively; and "Church of Rome" means the Church which regards the Pope of Rome as its spiritual head.

(2) The provisions of Sub-section (1) shall apply to every Registrar of Births and Deaths in the territories of any Prince or State in India in alliance with Her Majesty, with this modification, that the certified copies referred to in that sub-section shall be sent to such one of the Registrars-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages as the Governor-General in Council, from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, appoints in this behalf.

22. (1) Every Registrar of Births and Deaths shall, on payment of the prescribed fees, at all reasonable times allow searches to be made in the register books kept by him, and give a copy of any entry in the same.

(2) Every copy of an entry in a register book given under this section shall be signed by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth or death to which the entry relates.

D.—Penalties.

23. If any person wilfully makes, or causes to be made, for the purpose of being inserted in any register of births or deaths, any false statement in connection with any notice of a birth or death under this Act, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.

24. If any Registrar of Births and Deaths refuses, or without reasonable cause omits, to make an entry in the proper register of any birth or death which he ought so to enter under this Act, or if any person having the custody of any register book of births or deaths carelessly loses or injures or allows the injury of the book, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

E.—Correction of Errors.

25. (1) If a Registrar of Births and Deaths discovers any error in the form or substance of any entry of a birth or death in any register kept by him under this Act, he may, in the presence of the persons who gave the notice of the birth or death, or in case of their death or absence, in the presence of two other credible witnesses, correct the error by

entry in the margin, without any alteration of the original entry, and shall sign the marginal entry, and add thereon the date of the correction.

(2) Every entry made under this section must be attested by the witnesses in whose presence it was made.

(3) If a certified copy of the entry has already been sent to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the Registrar of Births and Deaths shall make and send a separate certified copy of the original erroneous entry and of the marginal correction therein made.

CHAPTER IV.

AMENDMENT OF MARRIAGE ACTS, 1872.

26. After Section 13 of Act III of 1872 (to provide a form of marriage in certain cases), the following section shall be inserted:—

"13A. The Registrar shall send to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the territories within which his district is situate, at such intervals as the Governor-General in Council, from time to time, directs, a true copy certified by him under his hand, in such form as the Governor-General in Council, from time to time, prescribes, of all entries made by him in the said marriage-certificate book since the last of such intervals."

27. In the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the following amendments shall be made, namely:—

(a) at the end of Section 3 the words "Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" means a Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages appointed under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1885," shall be added;

(b) for the words "Secretary to the Local Government," wherever they occur, and for the words "Secretary to a Local Government" in Section 79, the words "Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" shall be substituted;

(c) for the words "at such places as the Local Government directs" in Section 62, the words "in the office of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the territories of the Local Government by which the person who keeps the register-book was licensed" shall be substituted;

(d) in Section 81, after the words "Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages" the words "in England" shall be added.

CHAPTER V.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS AS TO CERTAIN EXISTING REGISTERS.

28. If any person in British India, or in the dominions of any Prince or State in India in alliance with Her Majesty, has for the time being the custody of any register or record of birth, baptism, naming, dedication, death or burial of any persons

of the classes specified in Section 10, or of any register or record of marriage of persons of the class of those to whom Act III of 1872 or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, applies, and, if such register or record has been made by him otherwise than in performance of a duty specially enjoined by the law of the country in which the register or record was kept, he may, within one year from the date on which this Act comes into force, send the register or record to the office of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the territories within which he resides, or, if he resides within the dominions of any such Prince or State as aforesaid, to such one of the Registrars-General as aforesaid in the *Gazette of India*, from time to time, directs in this behalf.

29. (1) The Governor-General in Council may appoint so many persons as he thinks fit to be Commissioners for examining the registers or records sent to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages under the last foregoing section.

(2) The Commissioners so appointed shall hold office for such period as the Governor-General in Council, by the order of appointment, or any subsequent order, directs.

30. (1) The Commissioners appointed under the last foregoing section shall enquire into the state, custody and authenticity of every such register or record as may be sent to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages under Section 28.

and shall, from time to time, deliver to the Registrar-General a descriptive list or list of all such registers or records, or portions of registers or records, as they find to be accurate and faithful.

(2) The list or lists shall contain the prescribed particulars and refer to the registers or records, or to the portions of the registers or records, in the prescribed manner.

(3) The Commissioners shall also certify in writing, upon some part of every separate book or volume containing any such register or record, or portion of a register or record, as is referred to in any list or lists made by the Commissioners, that it is one of the registers or records, or portions of registers or records, referred to in the said list or lists.

31. (1) Subject to the payment of the prescribed fees, the descriptive list or lists of registers or records, or portions of registers or records, delivered by the Commissioners to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall be, at all reasonable times, open to inspection by any person applying to inspect them, and copies of entries in those registers or records shall be given to all persons applying for them.

(2) A copy of an entry given under this section shall be signed by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth, baptism, naming, dedication, death, burial or marriage to which the entry relates.

CHAPTER VI.

RULES.

32. The Governor-General in Council may, from time to time, make rules—

(a) to fix the fees payable under this Act;

(b) to prescribe the forms required for the purposes of this Act;

(c) to prescribe the time within which, and the mode in which, persons authorized under this Act to give notice of a birth or death to a Registrar of Births and Deaths must give the notice;

(d) to prescribe the registers to be kept, and the form and manner in which Registrars of Births and Deaths are to register births and deaths under this Act, and the intervals at which they are to send true copies of the entries of births and deaths in the registers kept by them;

(e) to prescribe the particulars which the descriptive list or lists to be prepared by the Commissioners appointed under Chapter V are to contain, and the manner in which they are to refer to the registers or records, or portions of registers or records to which they relate; and

(f) generally to carry out the purposes of this Act.

33. (1) The Governor-General in Council shall, before making rules under the last foregoing section, publish a draft of the proposed rules in such manner as may, in his opinion, be sufficient for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby.

(2) There shall be published with the draft a note specifying a date at or after which the draft will be taken into consideration.

(3) The Governor-General in Council shall receive and consider any objection or suggestion which may be made by any person with respect to the draft before the date so specified.

(4) Every rule made under this section shall be published in the *Gazette of India*, and the publication in the *Gazette of India* of a rule purporting to be made under the last foregoing section shall be conclusive evidence that it has been duly made.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

It is proposed by this Bill (1) to establish a system of voluntary registration of births and deaths for the benefit of such classes of the community as would be likely to avail themselves of such registration, (2) to establish general registry offices for keeping registers of the births and deaths so registered, and of marriages registered under Act III of 1872 or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (XV of 1872), and (3) to provide machinery for giving evidential value to certain existing registers of births, baptisms, deaths, burials and marriages, which have been kept under no law.

2. The subject of the registration of births and deaths among Europeans in India has been long under the consideration of the Government, whose attention has, moreover, been frequently directed to it by memorials from various Christian religious bodies urging very strongly the need for legislation.

3. The Indian Statute-book contains at present no general law for the registration of births and deaths. There are, indeed, enactments which provide for the registration of births and deaths within certain specified areas, principally municipalities and cantonments, but, in the first place, these enactments are strictly local in their nature, leaving the greater portion of the country unprovided for, and, in the next place, their provisions, being directed primarily to statistical purposes,

are not of such a nature as to make the registers of births and deaths kept under them of value for purposes of evidence.

4. As to the numerous registers of baptisms and burials which are kept by ministers of religion in all parts of the country, it is doubtful how far they can be relied on for giving accurately the requisite particulars as to births and deaths, and most of them would, moreover, be inadmissible in evidence.

5. This being the state of the law, and considering the importance of the subject generally, and the memorials above referred to, and having regard to the fact that references are frequently made to the Secretary of State for India and to the Government of India for proof of age or of deaths in connection with questions involving large individual interests, such as rights to property, the Government of India is of opinion that it is expedient to enact a permissive law under which full facilities for registering births and deaths should be given to persons valuing unimpeachable evidence of these events.

6. As to the second object of the Bill, it is obvious that no system of registration of births and deaths can be complete or of practical value unless it provides for the establishment, at certain centres, of general offices where the information registered at the various local offices shall be collected and so arranged as to be readily available for public reference.

7. In this connection, the attention of the Government of India has been directed to the unsatisfactory nature of the system of registration of marriages under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, and Act III of 1872.

Documentary evidence of all marriages under the former Act is, by the provisions of the Act or the orders thereunder, sent to the Secretary to the Local Government, who is also empowered to grant certified copies which are receivable in evidence. It would seem, therefore, at first sight, that nothing further was required. But, as a matter of fact, not only are no arrangements made for maintaining an index to the marriages the records of which are retained in the local Secretariat, but the greater portion of the marriage records which are received in the local Secretariat have, under Section 81 of the Act and the orders in force, to be sent on to the Government of India in the Home Department for transmission to the Secretary of State, so that the greater number of the marriage records which reach the local Secretariat do not remain there for purposes of reference, and such as do remain are owing to the absence of an index, practically valueless.

As to Act III of 1872, this Act makes no provision for the marriages solemnized under it being reported to any central authority. The marriage certificates books for which it provides are retained by the Registrar, who is not even required to index them. Their value as records of the marriages to which they refer is accordingly much diminished.

8. The Government of India have therefore availed themselves of the opportunity of the proposed legislation for the registration of births and deaths to remove these defects in the marriage registration law, by providing for general registers, offices for keeping registers, not only of the births and deaths which may be registered under the proposed law, but also of marriages which may be registered under Act III of 1872 or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

9. The present Bill extends (Section 2) to the whole of British India, and, so far as regards subjects of Her Majesty, to the dominions of

Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty.

10. As there seems to be no way of utilizing for the special purposes in view the compulsory system of registration of births and deaths which is prescribed by the local laws referred to in paragraph 3 above, or of separating the registration of the limited classes affected by the Bill from that of the general population which is required under those laws, it has been found necessary to save the laws providing for the registration of births and deaths within particular local areas at present in force or which may hereafter be passed; and this is done by Section 4. The result of this section will, therefore, be that the persons to whom the provisions of the Bill relating to the registration of births and deaths are applicable will be bound, as heretofore, to satisfy the statistical requirements of such local Acts, and will be at liberty to re-register births and deaths under the Bill for evidential purposes.

11. Chapter II provides (Section 5) for the establishment by the Local Governments of general registry offices of births, deaths and marriages, and the appointment of Registrars-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. By Section 6 indexes are to be kept at the general registry offices of all the certified copies of registers which may be sent to them under the Bill or under Act III of 1872 or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872. These indexes (Section 7) are to be open to public inspection, and copies of the entries in the certified copies of the registers to which they relate are to be given to all persons applying for them, and such copies are (Section 8) to be admissible in evidence. By Section 9 the Registrar-General is given the superintendence of the Registrars of Births and Deaths.

12. Chapter III deals with the subject of registration of births and deaths. Section 10 defines the persons whose births and deaths are registrable as, in British India, the members of every race, sect or tribe to which the Indian Succession Act, 1869, applies and in respect of which an order under Section 332 of that Act is not for the time being in force, and all persons professing the Christian religion; and in Native States all like persons who are British subjects. These provisions of the Bill will therefore, generally speaking, apply to East Indians, Jews, Armenians and Parsis as well as to Europeans and Native Christians. These are believed to be the only classes of persons in the country who are likely to avail themselves of the benefits of a law of this nature.

13. The chapter then provides for a registration establishment, empowering (Sections 11 and 12) the Local Government in British India and the Governor-General in Council in Native States to appoint either by name or by virtue of their office persons to be Registrars of Births and Deaths in definite local areas. It is proposed to appoint persons authorized or licensed to perform marriages under either Act III of 1872 or the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, and, in order to provide for the receipt of notices from persons who may prefer not to resort to the Marriage Registrars, other suitable persons, one of whom it is intended should be appointed for each local area for which a person who is a Marriage Registrar is appointed. It is to the latter class of Registrars that Sections 13 and 14, which lay down certain provisions as to the office and vacancies in the office of such Registrars, are intended to apply. Section 15 provides for the supply of register books and the preservation of

14. The chapter next treats of the mode of registration. It imposes (Section 16) a duty on every Registrar of Births and Deaths to make an entry in his register book of a birth and death of which notice may be given to him within the prescribed time and in the prescribed mode by a person authorized to give him such notice. It then (Sections 17 and 18) specifies the persons who shall be authorized to give notice of births and deaths respectively.

Section 19 provides that the entry of the birth or death is to be signed by the person giving notice, and declares that until it is so signed the birth or death shall not be deemed to be registered. By Section 20 every Registrar of Births and Deaths is required to give on application made at the time of registering any birth or death by the person giving notice of the same, and on payment by him of the prescribed fee, a certificate of having registered the birth or death.

Section 21 provides for the sending by every Registrar of Births and Deaths at prescribed intervals to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages of certified copies of all entries in his register books. In the case of Registrars in British India, the copies are to be sent to the Registrar-General within whose jurisdiction the local areas for which the Registrar is appointed is situate, an exception being made in the case of Registrars who are clergymen of the Churches of England, Rome and Scotland, who may send them to their ecclesiastical superiors to be forwarded by them to the Registrar-General. In the case of Registrars in Native States, the copies are to be sent to such one of the Registrars-General as the Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, direct in this behalf. Section 22 provides for searches and grant of copies of entries in register books which shall be admissible in evidence.

15. Sections 23 and 24 prescribe penalties of imprisonment which may extend to three years and fine for wilfully giving false information to a Registrar of Births and Deaths, and of fine, which may extend to five hundred rupees, for Registrars of Births and Deaths omitting to enter births or deaths in the register or losing or injuring register books.

16. Lastly, Section 25 prescribes the procedure by which errors in the form or substance of any entry in a register book of births and deaths may be corrected.

17. Chapter IV (Sections 26 and 27) makes the amendments in Act III of 1872 and the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, which are necessary in order to make the provisions of these Acts fit in with the scheme of the Bill, under which certified copies of entries in the registers kept under these Acts are in future to be sent to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

18. Chapter V deals with the last of the three subjects referred to in the first paragraph of this Statement. As noted above, registers of births or baptisms and deaths or burials are at present kept in all parts of the country by ministers of religion. Registers of marriages were also similarly kept before the marriage-registration law came into force. Most of these registers are, as the law now stands, inadmissible in evidence, and possibly many of them should never be admitted in evidence owing to the irregular manner in which they have been compiled. At the same time, others are probably fit for admission as public registers. Under these circumstances, it seems advisable to follow the analogy of what was done in England (see 3 & 4 Vic., c. 92) and provide a procedure under which such of these registers as are worthy of recognition may be validated and certified copies of entries made in them declared admissible in evidence. This is accordingly done by Chapter V.

19. That chapter first (Section 28) declares that any person having custody of any such records may, within one year from the date on which the Bill comes into force, send them to the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the territories within which the person resides, or, if he resides in a Native State, to such one of those Registrars-General as the Governor-General in Council, by notification, directs. It then (Section 29) provides for the appointment by the Governor-General in Council of Commissioners to examine the registers so sent to the various Registrars-General, and prescribes (Section 30) the duties of the Commissioners, which are to inquire into the state, custody and authenticity of every register submitted to them, and to prepare lists of all such registers or portions of registers as they find to be accurate and faithful, and to certify upon some part of every book or volume containing any such register or portion of a register as is referred to in any such list that it is one of the registers referred to in the list. Section 31 permits, on payment of a fee, searches to be made of the lists so prepared, and provides for the grant of certified copies of the entries in the registers which shall be admissible in evidence.

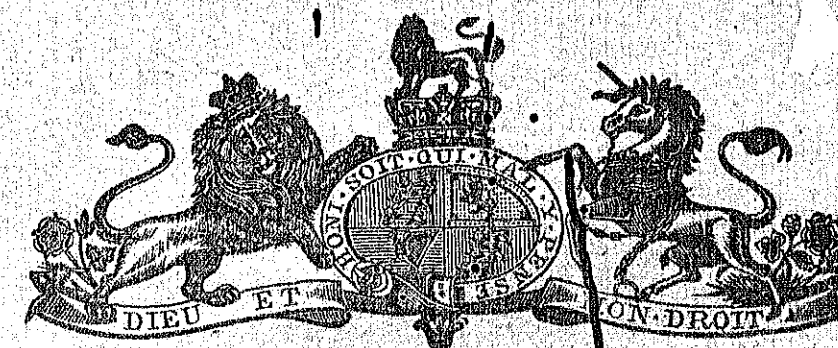
20. Finally, Chapter VI (Sections 32 and 33) empowers the Governor-General in Council to make rules with regard to certain matters connected with the purposes of the Act, and prescribes the usual procedure for the making and publication of such rules.

C. P. ILBERT.

The 2nd January 1885.

(Republished by order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.



Bill introduced into the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations, or published under Rule 22.

The following Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the voluntary Registration of certain Births and Deaths, for the establishment of General Registry Offices for keeping Registers of certain Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and for certain other purposes, was presented to the Council of the Governor-General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations on the 5th February 1886:—

We, the undersigned, Members of the Select Committee to which the Bill to provide for the

From Babu Behary Lal Chandra, Krishnagur, dated 28th January 1886 [Paper No. 1].
From Officiating Registrar, High Court, Calcutta, No. 919, dated 19th March 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 2].
From Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam, No. 557, dated 8th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 3].
From Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, No. 944, dated 8th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 4].
From Under Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 1406, dated 18th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 5].
From Officiating Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 400, dated 20th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 6].
Extract, paragraph XIV, from the Proceedings of the Mearut Association, No. 20, dated 8th March 1886 [Paper No. 7].
From Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burma, No. 354—11 S.S., dated 17th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 8].
From Under Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 1452, dated 23rd April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 9].
From Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Coorg, No. 112—13-I, dated 21st April 1886 [Paper No. 10].
From Under Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 1576, dated 28th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 11].
From Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 442, dated 20th April 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 12].
From Officiating Secretary to Government, Punjab, No. 500, dated 18th May 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 13].
From Secretary for Berar to Resident, Hyderabad, No. 171-G, dated 16th May 1886 [Paper No. 14].
From Under Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 1829, dated 16th May 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 15].
From Secretary to Government, Bengal, No. 514, dated 16th May 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 16].
From Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 920—VII-28-18, dated 19th June 1886, and enclosure [Papers No. 17].
From Assistant Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 2446—118, dated 30th June 1886 [Paper No. 18].

ing the registration of births and deaths to any classes of the community which may be desirous of taking advantage of the provisions of that chapter.

4. By sections 12 and 13 we have proposed to enable Local Governments in British India and the Governor-General in Council in States in India in alliance with His Majesty to appoint Registrars of Birth and Deaths for classes of persons as well as for local areas. It will thus be practicable to appoint ministers of religion to be Registrars of Births and Deaths for their own congregations only without imposing on them duties for which they might have neither leisure nor inclination.

5. In section 14 we have provided that every Registrar of Births and Deaths shall be deemed to be a public servant. This provision appears to us to render it unnecessary to retain section 24 of the Bill as introduced.

voluntary Registration of certain Births and Deaths, for the establishment of General Registry Offices for keeping Registers of certain Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and for certain other purposes, was referred, have considered the Bill and the papers noted on the margin, and have now the honor to submit this our Report.

2. We have, on the advice of a leading member of the Parsi community at Bombay, proposed to extend to the scattered Parsi communities resident beyond the local limits of the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the High Court at Bombay the same provisions for the more effectual registration of marriages as were proposed by the Bill to be conferred on the classes to whom Act III of 1872 and the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, apply.

3. By section 11, sub-section (2), we propose to enable Local Governments, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to extend the operation of the chapter respecting

6. By section 19 we have provided that, if a Registrar of Births and Deaths has reason to believe any notice given him to be in any respect false, he may refuse to register the birth or death until he receives an order from the District Court directing him to make the entry and prescribing the manner in which the entry is to be made.

In the same section and in section 22, sub-section (3), we have reproduced the provisions of section 7 of the Statute 37 and 38 Vic., cap. 88.

7. In sections 20 and 21 we have classified, in a modified form, the persons authorized to give notices of births and deaths.

8. We have provided in section 24 that clergymen who may become Registrars of Births and Deaths shall send certified copies of the entries in their registers direct to the Registrar-General unless they are required by their ecclesiastical superiors to transmit the copies through them.

9. By section 26 we have proposed to empower the Governor-General in Council to make rules authorizing Registrars of Births and Deaths, on conditions and in circumstances to be specified in the rules, to register births and deaths occurring outside the local areas or classes for which they have been appointed. Events occurring in the course of journeys, or in places for which Registrars of Births and Deaths have not been appointed, may by those rules be made registrable.

10. We have made fine an alternative punishment for the offence made punishable under section 27.

11. To section 36 we have added a clause enabling the Governor-General in Council to make rules as to the custody of registers and records sent to the Registrar-General under section 32.

12. The other amendments of the Bill are unimportant and do not call for special remark.

13. In regard to the argument which has been urged in some of the papers before us that the existing registers of certain religious bodies are admissible in evidence, we are informed that the legal value of these registers has been questioned by high authority, on the ground that they are not maintained under any special injunction of law, or in the ordinary course of business, within the meaning of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

14. As regards the working of the proposed Act, we understand that existing machinery will, so far as possible, be utilised, and that expenses will be defrayed from fees payable under the Act.

15. Other objections taken to the Bill are (a) that some Registrars may object to the provisions of section 16, sub-section (2), and (b) that difficulties may result from the requirement of section 22, sub-section (1), that the person giving notice of a birth or death must sign the entry in the register in the presence of the Registrar. As regards the first of these objections we observe that section 16, sub-section (2), will not apply to all Registrars, but only to those to whom the Local Government applies the sub-section. As regards the second objection, the risk of difficulties arising may be diminished, if not removed, by provision being made, in the rules under clause (c) of section 36, for an enlargement under certain circumstances of the time within which notices may be given of births and deaths.

16. The publication ordered by the Council has been made as follows:—

Gazette.	In English.	Date.
Gazette of India		17th, 24th, and 31st January 1886.
Port St. George Gazette		10th February 1886.
Bombay Government Gazette		22nd and 29th January and 5th February 1886.
Calcutta Gazette		21st and 28th January and 4th February 1886.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Gazette		20th and 31st January and 7th February 1886.
Punjab Government Gazette		28th January and 5th and 12th February 1886.
Central Provinces Gazette		24th and 31st January and 7th February 1886.
British Burma Gazette		7th, 14th, and 21st February 1886.
Assam Gazette		7th, 14th, and 21st February 1886.
Coorg District Gazette		2nd March 1886.

Province.	Language.	Date.
Madras	Telugu	31st March 1886.
	Kanarese	8th April 1886.
	Tamil	5th May 1886.
	Hindustani	12th May 1886.
Bombay	Malayalam	2nd June 1886.
	Marathi	23rd April 1886.
	Gujarathi	30th May 1886.
	Kanarese	3rd, 10th, and 17th February 1886.
Bengal	Bengali	17th and 24th February and 3rd March 1886.
	Hindi	12th, 19th, and 26th February 1886.
Punjab	Gurmukhi	2nd, 9th, and 16th March 1886.
Central Provinces	Marathi	2nd, 9th, and 16th March 1886.
British Burma	Burmese	21st and 28th March and 4th April 1886.
Assam	Bengali	21st February 1886.

17. We do not think that the measure has been so altered as to require republication, and we recommend that it be passed as now amended.

C. P. ILBERT.
S. C. BAYLEY.
PEARI MOHAN MUKERJI.
H. ST. A. GOODRICH.
ROBERT STEEL.
W. W. HUNTER.

The 5th February 1886.

S. HARVEY JAMES,
Off. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(Republished by order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

Office of Surgeon-General

WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Notacamund 12th Aug: 1886

No. *11378*

From

G. B. D. Esq. M. B. C. S. E.

THE SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public DEPARTMENT

Notacamund

Sir,

With reference to G.O. No. 1568 Misc. of 28th July 1886 I have the honor to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the following remarks on certain points connected with Act VI of 1886 for the Registration of births, deaths and marriages.

1. The classes to which it is to apply in the first instance are apparently Europeans, East Indians, Native Christians, Jews, Armenians and Parsis; and as these have all been more or less accustomed to the registration of such events as those included in the Act it is to be regretted, that the duty of registration has in their case not been made obligatory.

2. Notwithstanding the long period that British rule has existed in India our knowledge of the vital statistics of the native population, Eurasians and foreign residents is very imperfect, so that any reliable acquisition as to the progress of population, operation of moral

and physical causes on health, and as to the prevalence of disease amongst these classes, would be of inestimable value. For sanitary economic and purely statistical purposes such information is much required, and although the classes included form but a small portion of the general population, still it seems desirable to make a beginning in the direction of complete and accurate registration, by making it compulsory.

4. It has further been noted, that as the Act now exists it confers on the classes whose births, deaths and marriages are registrable a superior legal status which may be regarded by other members of the Community as not altogether impartial. I would therefore on this account, and also for other reasons, suggest that as Section 26 gives the Governor-General in Council the power to extend the scope of the Act the privilege of voluntary registration should be given to Hindus, Mahomedans, Sikhs and all other sections of the Native Community, at any rate in Municipal towns. Already the educated classes are beginning to recognize the importance from a legal point of view of the registration of births and deaths as at present carried out in Municipalities, and it seems very desirable that every opportunity should be taken to still further familiarize the people generally with, and train them up to the duty of registering such events as births & deaths.

5. With regard to the Agency to be employed

I am of opinion that for the record of births and deaths special registers will have to be provided in convenient centres. In the case of marriage, registration may be left as at present to the authorities who perform the ceremony, in Churches, synagogues &c. So long as registration is voluntary and confined to comparatively small sections of the population the duties of Registrar General will not demand any special qualifications and may be performed by any one who has a due respect for accuracy, good knowledge of ordinary office work and the capacity to organize and control the subordinate staff. But in case of the Act being so extended as to compass the vital statistics of the entire population a medical Officer with special qualifications will be required.

6. In the latter part of para 2 of their letter under notice, the Government of India invite suggestions with reference to Sections 28 and 30 of the Act, and it seems to me that they may safely adopt, with such modifications as may be necessary, the forms and registers in use, and also the rules in force in England for carrying out the purposes of the consolidated Registration Act.

Have the honor to be

Yours Most Obedt Servant.
Edie M. B. C. S. C.
Sg. Surgeon-General.
Government of Madras

28/7/96 No. 1568
C/2269/20

(1886) DEPARTMENT
CORRENT NO.
By G. B. D. Esq. M. B., C. D. E.
SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Resident Surgeon of Madras.

No. 7373
Dated 12th } August 1886
Recd 13 }
No.

SUBJECT.

Submitting remarks on
certain points connected with
Act VI of 1884, for the registration
of births, deaths & marriages.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Notarandum 20 August 1886
No. 92.
From: Dy. Surg. Genl W. Farquhar M. B.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department.

Sir,
Adverting to G.O. No. 1568 M.S. of 20th July
1886 Public, I have the honor to forward ob-
servations in reply to letter No. 13th dated 20th
June 1886 of the Government of India, regard-
ing the registration of births, deaths and
marriages under Act VI of 1884.

2. The question appears to be how to effect
registration of these events favouring the class
to which the Indian Succession Act applies
in a manner that shall answer the purpose
of a legal record.

3. In municipalities these classes, as well
as every other class of natives - come under

the

the compulsory rule of registering births and deaths, within specified periods. But while this is the case the Registrar, ^{has} ~~has~~ ^{unless} where the law is strictly enforced, to search for information of events, in the great majority of cases, instead of its being brought to him.

4. In the districts there is no obligation on any one to give information although it is the duty of the Kurnam to register events as he best can.

5. The proposal, as regards the classes now alluded to, is to confer ~~on~~ ^{on} them something of the nature of a benefit ^{privilege} while not doing away with the compulsion that there is in municipalities for the present kind of registration. In case of time matters of all creeds and classes would probably desire to be admitted to the privilege and ~~leave~~ ^{leave}, if granted, as ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{advisable}, would act as an inducement to more universal registration than at present obtains under the rule of compulsion.

6. For district registration on the present agency.

agency or a modification of it would suffice. The Tahsildar should be responsible for collecting, checking and forwarding the records.

7. The stress of registration of the classes now enquired about, would probably fall on municipalities and it would be for each to settle the competency - for this higher kind of work - of the present registrars or whether some other municipal servant should do it.

8. The collection of information as to marriages would have to be entrusted to the present agents, by whom it could be forwarded to the Central Office.

9. As marriages form a part of vital statistics from which, as a whole, important deductions have to be made for sanitary and other purposes, it would only be completing information hitherto wanting (regarding important sections of the community) if these were sent to the Office of the Sanitary Commissioner, who is already the Registrar General of Vital Statistics.

10. In the matter of forms for the proposed registration.

registration they should be uniform, and include all particulars required by law, and also be durable and of a kind not easily imitated.

11. Note would have to be taken of such matters as how to identify Native Christians who have no family names.

12. For births and deaths the forms in use with the Madras Municipality would be a good guide.

13. Details as to the mode of submission of "true copies" of registered events to the Central Office and of rules generally, could, I venture to say, be most satisfactorily settled by a conference of Officers having acquaintance with the subject. The simplest method would seem to be to have all originals in cheque and counterfoil form, and to have the separate sheets passed on periodically to the Central Office where they could be arranged and bound for preservation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours most obedient servant

W. A. G. S. S. S.

Dy. Surg. Genl.
Ag. Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

His Department

The Leg. Sanitary Commission
for Madras

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government

Dated 20th

Desps

Recd

} August 1886

No 92

Encls 4/

Subject

Forwarding observations
regarding the registration
of births, deaths and marriages
under Act VI of 1886.

NOTES.

C No. 260, A. 3360. 3260. 3298.

Govt. of India.
Sanitary Council.
Luzon Council.
Board of Revenue.

41

FOR ORDERS.

- The Govt. of India require
- (1). That arrangements it is proposed to make for the appointment of a Registrar-General to register under the new Act.
 - (2). That this Govt. would wish to suggest as regards rules under ss. 26, 28, & 35.

This Act applies in the first instance only to Christians, Jews and Parsis, but may be extended to any other classes or to any local area under sec. 11 (2). Its object is to provide for the voluntary registration of births & deaths, the more effectual registration of births & deaths & marriages among the classes affected, & for the authentication & custody of the existing registers so as to make them trustworthy in evidence.

As to points to be considered.

The Sanitary Council suggests that the business should be the Registrar-General, that births & deaths should continue to be registered in the present of the municipal registers and of karnams, the latter transmitting their returns to the Tahsildars and that the registration of marriages should be "entrusted to the present agents, & when it would be forwarded to the Central Office."

The Surgeon-General thinks that the duties of Registrar-General can be performed for the present by any person of accurate mind and organizing capacity, but that if the act is eventually extended, a medical officer with special qualifications will be required. He is further of opinion that "for the record of births and deaths special registrars will have to be provided in convenient centres, where marriage registration may be left as at present to the authorities who perform the ceremony in churches, synagogues &c."

The Board of Revenue thinks that the Inspector-General of Registration should be made Registrar-General and his subordinates throughout the country Registrars of births, deaths, & marriages alike. They deprecate the appointment of clergymen as registrars, as contemplated in the Act, & think that there should be only one registrar for each local area. The registration being voluntary, the clergymen can always advise parties to a marriage to go to the local Registrar.

As it is desirable to work the Act as economically as possible & not to create a new department ad hoc, Dr. Budge's proposals for special registrars may be well adopted. There remains then the vital

schemes, that of the Law Council & that of the B. of Rev. The Law Council's may be modified at once by the omission of karnams & Tahsil Dars being that the present body of the classes concerned with in municipalities & the small zemindars could without much difficulty be the domestic occurrences in an office of the nearest municipal Registrar. Thus restricted there seems little to choose between the S.P.'s plan & the B.'s. The former, in will be better, leaves marriage registration in the hands of the clergy and would be so far perhaps more generally acceptable & certainly much more efficient & reliable so far as marriage is concerned. Should the B.'s proposal be preferred, it would probably be desirable to consult Mr. Harcourt as to the advisability of his Dept. to undertake the duty.

As to the point 2. (rules &c.)

The Law Council thinks that these matters could be best settled by a conference of officers having representation with the natives. The forms used should be uniform & durable & far better than those of the Madras Government might be adopted.

The Surgeon-General would add "the forms & registers in use" and the rules in force in England under the unmodified Registration Act."

The B. submit a more detailed list, referring to each section separately.

These are not available here.

Not available here.

They would confine sec. 28. to domestic events on a primary alone, as it may be inferred that they would have no idea unprovided with a proper register (see para 8 of reports of Select Committee). They would allow no corrections under sec. 28. after the lapse of 3 months without the consent of the District Magistrate. As to sec 28. see para 4 of their proceedings. These recommendations seem unobjectionable, but the allusion to "District Registrars" in para 4 (c) depends on the adoption of the B. 3. 10 proposal under point 1.

There is a further letter (C no 2244) from the Govt. of India in the Foreign Dept. regarding the amendment to be made in native status. This must be dealt with in the Political Dept. but its disposal will depend mainly on the orders to be passed on the papers now submitted.

S. A.
23/6/8.

Registration of
Births, Deaths
& Marriages
Act VI of 1886

FOR ORDERS.

Vide Statement of Ob.
ject. Persons with
the Bill - para 13

N.B.

The list of Marriage Registrars under Act XV of 1872 has, I think, been recently revised but no copy has been put up nor can I find the list in the Annual Administration Reports. It finds a place in the index.

The person best suited to be Registrar General of Births Deaths and Marriages under Act VI of 1886 seems to be unquestionably the Inspector General of Registration.

In regard to the appointment of Registrars of Births & Deaths for (1) local areas and (2) any classes of persons, we cannot improve on the original suggestion viz. to appoint under (a) the various Marriage Registrars who perform the functions prescribed by the several Marriage Acts for the classes which come under these cognizance and such list in the Annual Administration Reports and (b) some other suitable person to provide for the cases of persons who may prefer not to resort to the Marriage Registrars - The best per-

201 in the first in-
stance for this pur-
pose would be the
Registrar (under the
Registration Act) who
is appointed Regis-
trar of Births & Deaths
in his local area i.e.
in his District. Should
the necessity arise,
or additional classes
be brought under
the operation of the
Act, the Sub Registrars
(under the Registration
Act) or the appointed
Registrars of Births
& Deaths within their
local areas.

It should only be
the Registrars of Births
& Deaths for local areas
and the provisions
of section 16 and section
(2) should apply to Re-
gistrars & Sub Regis-
trars (under the Re-
gistration Act) who
are bound to hold office
within stated hours
they are appointed un-
der Act No. 1880 com-
pulsorily comply with the rule.

Clause (2) see 11

Paragraph 3 of current
No. 2610 A. Public

vide para 2 Ch 2610 A.
Select Committee's Report
para 9.
Rep Bd No. para 2

It must not be for-
gotten that the Registra-
tion is entirely voluntary
and that the work is al-
ready done, more or less
efficiently. The compul-
sory Registration of do-
mestic occurrences
under Municipal or
such like Act is not
affected. Such must
proceed irrespective
of the Registration now
under consideration.
It seems most conve-
nient therefore that
the latter should be per-
formed by a distinct
Agency.

With reference to
sec 26 of the Act there
is probably the few places
in the Presidency which
is not, if the above
suggestions be carried
out, be within a Re-
gistration District.
It should be the duty
however of any Regis-
trar for a local area
to register a birth or death
which had not occurred
within his area if
sufficient reason be
shown, e.g. that the
event had occurred

a journey so. such
person being recorded
then & there and a
special report thereof
being submitted to
the Registrar General.

Section 28. The
Revenue Board would
let the Registrar make
corrections within a
period of 3 months
after the prior consent
of the Divisional
Magistrate being obtained
if that period is ex-
ceeded. I would rather
require in every case
an order from the Judge
of the District Court
directing the alterations
Section 36.

(a) The Board's suggestion
seems appropriate.
It may however be ne-
cessary to prescribe a
fee for registration. An
establishment will
be required by the Regis-
trar General for work-
ing the Act, & the local
area Registrar may
properly receive some
remuneration in the
way of fee for the extra
work he has to do.

Para 2 of current No
2610A
Rev. Bd. Pro. para 3

as in sec 19.

Para 2 C. No. 2610A
Rev. Bd. Pro. para 3

may be called a
form
(b) (c) (d). Dr. S. S. S.
suggestion might be
recommended for
consideration viz:
I adopt the former
rules in force in
England under the
Consolidated Re-
gistration Act 1888.
I think much must
depend on a rule which
will cover the Board's
suggestion under (c).

(e) & (f) seem to be
very much like Chapter
V of the Act. If cer-
tain forms are pre-
scribed for future genera-
tion, the particulars
in the list to be pre-
pared under Chap.
V sh. follow as
nearly as may be,
& as the materials
afford the informa-
tion, the particulars
as appear in the
new Regulations. The
Registrar General

When the Act is brought into force it will be necessary to re-publish, with modifications, the existing Rules under Act 25 of 1872. This revision might be taken in hand at once.

It may be an instruction to the future Registrar General to consider whether or no the existing Rules for submission of quarterly returns of baptisms & burials of European Christians need modification in what direction.

When orders are issued on the current papers Mr. Hammett should see the whole file including the earlier papers & be asked to his remarks generally. He might make some suggestions if he might go to India later on.

30/8/86.

Published at P. 789.
of reg. Asylum Press
Alumnaack for 1886.

vide p. 796 & 797
Asylum Press Alumnaack
nach 1886

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

G.O. Miss. of 28th July 1886. no 1589.

Prov. B. & Rev. of 7th August 1886. no 1776.

Letter from A. S. Lingen - Genl. of 12th Aug. 1886. no 6/373.

Letter from A. S. Sanitary Commr. of 20th Aug. 1886 no 7/1.

Order. 2 Sept. 1886 of 1837.

The arrangements which this Govt. would propose to make under sec. 6 and 12 of Act 25 of 1886 are as follows: - That the Inspector General of Registration should be appointed Registrar General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; That the various Marriage Registrars who perform the functions prescribed by the several Marriage Acts should be appointed Registrars of Births and Deaths for the classes which come

under their cognizance ~~under~~
such Marriage Acts; and
that the Registrars under the
Registration Act should be
appointed Registrars of Births
and Deaths, each for his own
district, to meet the cases of
persons not falling within
the classes above referred to
or who may prefer not to
report to the Marriage Regis-
trar. Eventually it may be
found desirable also to appoint
the Sub-Registrars under the
Registration Act to be Registrars
of Births and Deaths, each
for his own local area, but
this does not appear necessary
at present.

2. It must not be forgotten
that registration under Act VI of
1886 will be entirely voluntary,
and that it is not an offence

affects the compulsory registration
of domestic occurrences under
municipal or other acts, which
must proceed irrespective of
the registration now under
consideration. It seems desirable
therefore, that the latter should
be performed by a distinct
agency. The provisions of
Section 16 sub-section (2) should
apply only to Registrars for
local areas.

3. If the above proposals
be carried out, ~~then~~ there
would probably be few places
in the Presidency which
would not fall within the
jurisdiction of a Registrar
under the Act. It should
be the duty, however, of any
Registrar for a local area to
register a birth or death which
had not occurred within his area.

if sufficient reason is
shown, e.g. that the
event happened on a
journey. Such reason should
be recorded then and there
and a special report
submitted to the
Registrar-General.

4. With regard to sec 28,
the Govt. consider that
no alteration should be
allowed ~~except~~ except under
an order from the Judge
of the District Court, as
in sec. 19.

5. Turning to sec 36, the
Govt. approve the suggestion
of the D. P. Revenue that
fees for copies and searches
should be fixed at the
rates laid down in Part
III rule IV of the revised
Ecclesiastical rules published
in Govt. of India Notification
dated 20th June 1895. They
think it desirable, however,
to prescribe ^{a fee} for registration
also. An establishment will
be required by the Registrar-
General for working the
act, and Registrars for
local areas, many of whom
will receive some remuneration in
~~the way of salary~~ for the
extra work they may be
called upon to perform.
With regard to heads (b) (c)
and (d) of the section, the

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

Suggestion of the ad. Surgeon
General, that the forms in
use in England under the
Consolidated Registration Act
should be adopted, with the
recommendation for consideration
Heads (e) and (f) seem to
apply only to Chapter V of
the act. In the opinion of
this Govt. the particulars in
the lists to be prepared under
that chapter should follow,
as nearly as may be and
as the available materials
will allow, the particulars
which appear in the forms
to be prescribed for future
general use. The Registrar-General
would serve to the purpose.

the
 Custodian of the registers and
 records referred to in (a) - It,
 however, ~~the~~ head (f) refers
 to all registers and records
 under the act, it
 would seem desirable to provide
 in the rules that, in the
 case of a Registration for a
 class, the records should be
 handed to the Magistrate of
 the district where the Regis-
 tration begins or leaves the
 locality, his successor (if
 any) assuming charge from
 the Magistrate and a report
 being in any case made to
 the Registrar-General, who should
 take charge of the records
 if no successor be appointed.
 With reference to the suggestion
 of the B? of Revenue under
 (g), the Govt. think it
 unnecessary to prescribe any

The Board of Revenue
 - Surg. Genl. with the } of deaths
 - Sanitary Comm.
 - J. of Registrations
 - Genl. Dept.
 - Eccl. Dept.
 - Acct. Genl.

To Secy G.P. Home Dept. Medical.

Sir,

rules as of the kind suggested
 in the case of Registrations for
 a class, and that in the
 case of Registrations for local
 areas the ordinary rules as
 to printing and execution which
 prevail in the Registration
 Dept. should be adopted.

b. Ordered that the Govt.
 of India be addressed: -

J. S. M.
 No. 1838 31/11.

With reference to your letter no.
 13 of 21st June I am directed
 to forward the accompanying copy
 of the proceedings of this Govt.
 no. of this date, containing
 the proposals and suggestions
 of this Govt. with reference to
 Act VI of 1886 (The Births,
 Deaths, & Marriages Registra-
 tion Act, 1886). -

(Per Secy)

J. S. M.
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Public
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Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Registration of Births, &c.

Passing orders on
the remarks made by
certain officers on cer-
tain points connected
with the ~~pro~~, death
& marriages, under Act VI
of 1886.

Forwarding copy of
certain proceedings con-
taining the proposals and
suggestions of the for-
reference to Act VI of 1886
concerning the registration of

Births, deaths & marriages